

2009

ISSUE 7

Newsletter

Nova Scotia Provincial Parks Discover our nature

Canada's Parks Day Celebrates 20th Anniversary

On Saturday July 18 Nova Scotia Provincial Parks will join hundreds of parks and historic sites across Canada in celebrating the 20th Anniversary of Canada's Parks Day.

For this year's theme, Canada's Parks Day has partnered with the International Year of Astronomy...a natural fit since parks are often the best places to view the night sky. See for yourself at Ellenwood Lake Provincial Park when Yarmouth Leisure Services leads a Sky-watch event on the evening of Parks Day.

Other events taking place in Nova Scotia Provincial Parks include:

FRIDAY & SATURDAY

Parks Day Celebrations

Mira River Provincial Park

SATURDAY MORNING

Make a Kite

Blomidon Provincial Park

Nature – A Learning Experience

Dollar Lake Provincial Park

Wilderness Survival

Dollar Lake Provincial Park

Scavenger Hunt, Barbecue, and Washer Toss

The Islands Provincial Park

Introduction to Archery

Thomas Raddall Provincial Park

SATURDAY AFTERNOON

Children's Fun Day

Graves Island Provincial Park

Family Fun Day

Porters Lake Provincial Park

Exploring Nature

Sand Hills Beach Provincial Park

50th Anniversary and Summer Festival

Whycocomagh Provincial Park

Discovery Day

Thomas Raddall Provincial Park

Family Fun Day

Dollar Lake Provincial Park

Park Appreciation Day

Musquodoboit Valley Provincial Park

8th Annual Sand Castle Competition

Rissers Beach Provincial Park

SATURDAY EVENING

Moonlight Tour of the Wildlife Park

Shubenacadie Provincial Wildlife Park

Check our website for more details including event start times as July 18 draws closer.

This year's theme is the **International Year of Astronomy.**

Marvel at the Milky Way during the Sky-watch event at Ellenwood Lake Provincial Park.



Dig into the Sand Castle Competition at Rissers Beach Provincial Park.

2009 Camping Fees

| | |
|-------------------------------|---------|
| Basic Campsite | |
| • no central washrooms | \$18.00 |
| Semi-serviced Campsite | |
| • hot showers/flush toilets | \$23.00 |
| 2-way | |
| • water/electric—Porters Lake | \$31.00 |
| Reservation | \$8.00 |
| Change/cancel reservation | \$6.00 |
| Additional vehicle | \$7.48 |
| Dump station (per use) | \$5.34 |
| Firewood (bundle) | \$4.00 |

Cape Chignecto Provincial Park Fees

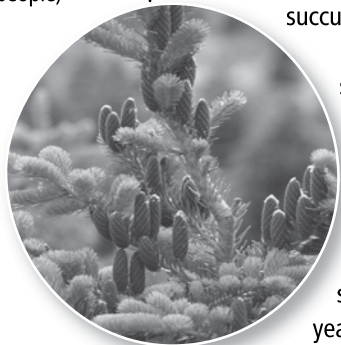
Fees are subject to change

| | |
|----------------------------------------------|---------|
| Adult Entrance Fee | \$5.00 |
| Senior (65 yrs & up) | \$4.00 |
| Child (7 - 16 yrs) | \$4.00 |
| Child (under 6 yrs) | Free |
| Family (adult + max. 2 children) | \$15.00 |
| School Groups per student | \$2.00 |
| Corporate Groups (min. 20 people) per person | \$3.50 |
| Annual Day-use Pass | \$25.00 |

Cape Chignecto Camping Fees

| | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| Regular | \$23.00 |
| Additional Tent | \$21.00 |
| Cabin/Bunkhouse Rentals | |
| • up to 4 people, per night | \$53.40 |
| • additional people per night, per person (max of 4 additional people) | \$10.68 |

All fees include taxes.



The Friends of Taylor Head Provincial Park Society

The Friends of Taylor Head Provincial Park Society was officially incorporated under the Societies Act in July 2008. The group is the result of many people who wanted to establish a working relationship with the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) regarding the park.

The "Friends" now number more than 70 people and new members are always welcome. In 2008 the group organized four guided bird walks, a watercolor clinic and a photography session. Through an agreement with DNR, access to the park was extended until Dec 8 and a significant number of people used the park during this period.

Visit the Parks are for People website in the coming months to see what *The Friends of Taylor Head* have lined up for guided activities this season.

CAPE CHIGNECTO

Phase II to Open This Spring

The second phase of development at Cape Chignecto Provincial Park, the Eatonville day-use area, will open to the public this spring.

Located in the once thriving settlement of Eatonville Harbour, Phase II will provide visitors with more than 5 km of walking trails that are accessible to families and the physically challenged (where site constraints permit). Visitors will arrive via the West Apple River Road and enter at the new Three Sisters Interpretive Centre, a solar powered building that provides access to the trail system and information on the historical and geological significance of the area.

Visitors can choose from two trails. One leads to the Three Sisters, magnificent sea-stacks, engulfed in local folklore. The second trail takes visitors to Squally Point, a raised beach created thousands of years ago when glaciers covered much of the area. Seven barrier-free viewing platforms offer spectacular vantage points as well as interpretive information. Rest and picnic areas are located along the trails. While it might seem like a long drive, the experience waiting at the top of the cliffs is well worth the adventure. • www.capechignecto.net



Viewing platforms offer vantage points for the Three Sisters formations.

BEN EOIN

Working Example of Restoration

Many Provincial Parks have developed on lands that were once old pasture sites. Left to regrow, old pastures are quickly populated by white spruce and other short-lived tree species.

Unfortunately the white spruce in some of our parks are overmature, dying of old age, or have succumbed to insect attack.

To address the situation DNR is employing ecological restoration techniques. White spruce trees are removed so as to provide maximum benefit to the soil and future vegetation growth. Later, a tree and plant species mix more representative of the natural landscape, will be planted or encouraged to grow to produce a new forest.

A working example of this process can be found at Ben Eoin Provincial Park located on Cape Breton Island. Over the past winter, work took place on an area of the park that required attention. This work will be obvious to visitors as trees are no longer standing where they once did. New growth will appear soon, but a mature forest is many years away. What was once an old pasture, turned forest, turned dead and dying trees, will again become a growing forest.

Congratulations Kit and George Hunt 10 Years as Campground Hosts

In 2008, Kit and George Hunt celebrated their 10th Anniversary in the Nova Scotia Campground Host Program. They began hosting in 1999 at Smileys Provincial Park and have hosted there for nine out of the ten years. George has assisted DNR staff with training new hosts and has developed a series of helpful tips for other hosts. George also shares his hobby of macramé with children visiting the parks through informal craft sessions. The Hunts have met people from all over the world and are always available for a chat or to lend a helping hand. Whether it be providing information or directions to visitors, assisting with a barbecue at a park event or searching for a missing dog, it is all in a day's work for the Hunts.



Honourable David Morse presents George and Kit Hunt with a Certificate of Appreciation for ten years of hosting on November 4, 2008.

Whycocomagh Celebrates its 50th Anniversary

Whycocomagh Provincial Park will be celebrating its 50th year of operation this season, so be sure to plan a visit and enjoy the long tradition of hospitality at this picturesque camping park.

Birthday celebrations will take center stage with Canada's Parks Day on July 18 with fun events for all ages, a barbecue, nature walks along the trails, and much more. Former park staff are invited to come back and reminisce and see how the park has changed over the years, as well as sign the staff Board of Fame. Former Chief Caretakers will be honoured with a special event recognizing their work at the park.

Whycocomagh's hillside location provides camping with a panoramic view overlooking the Skye River Valley and the beautiful Bras d'Or Lake. Hike to the summit of Salt Mountain to get an "eagle's eye" view. There will be lots to see and do all season long!



Provincial Wildlife Park Fees

Fees are subject to change

ADMISSION

| | |
|--------|---------|
| Adult | \$4.25 |
| Youth | \$1.75 |
| Family | \$11.00 |

SEASON PASS

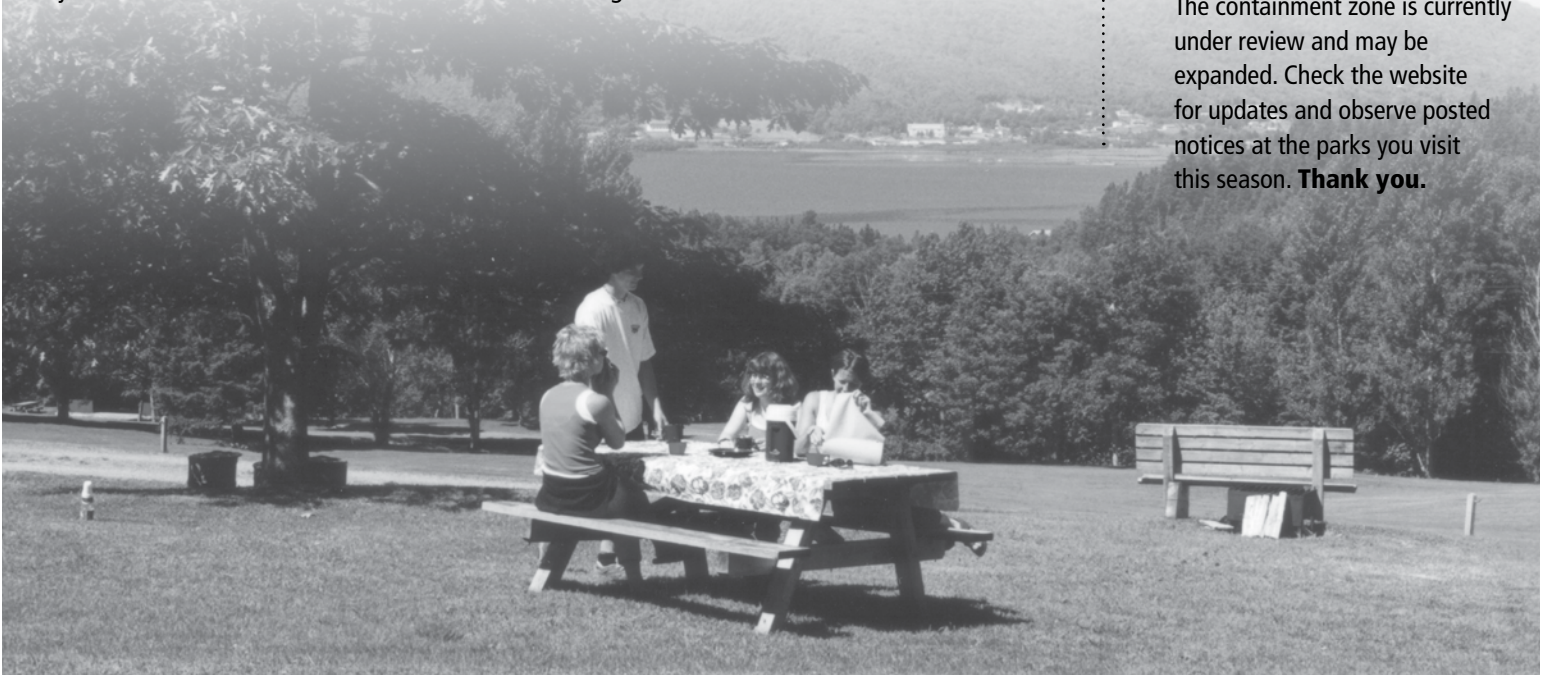
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| Adult | \$14.00 |
| Youth | \$5.00 |
| Family | \$33.50 |
| Children 5 years and under | Free |

All fees include taxes.



Stop the Spread of Brown Spruce Longhorn Beetle

Three camping parks – Laurie, Dollar Lake and Porters Lake – as well as several day-use parks, fall within the Brown Spruce Longhorn Beetle (BSLB) containment zone. Park visitors are asked to help control the movement of BSLB by not removing wood from the containment zone. Please leave unused firewood in these parks. The containment zone is currently under review and may be expanded. Check the website for updates and observe posted notices at the parks you visit this season. **Thank you.**





Happy Anniversary!

Ellenwood Lake and Valleyview are celebrating 40 years of operation. Whycomomagh is celebrating 50 years of operation in 2009.

Alcohol-free Period

In order to ensure that all campers enjoy a restful stay at our provincial parks, an alcohol-free period will be in effect at all provincial camping parks from opening date until July 2 (inclusive). Please check the website for the most up-to-date information.

Park Seasons for 2009

| PARK | COUNTY | DATE |
|------------------------|-------------|--------------------|
| Amherst Shore | Cumberland | June 19 – Oct. 12 |
| Battery | Richmond | June 19 – Sept. 14 |
| Blomidon | Kings | May 15 – Sept. 7 |
| Boylston | Guysborough | June 19 – Sept. 14 |
| Cape Chignecto | Cumberland | May 15 – Oct. 25 |
| Caribou–Munroes Island | Pictou | June 19 – Oct. 12 |
| Dollar Lake | Halifax | June 19 – Oct. 12 |
| Ellenwood Lake | Yarmouth | May 15 – Sept. 7 |
| Five Islands | Colchester | May 15 – Sept. 7 |
| Graves Island | Lunenburg | May 15 – Sept. 7 |
| Laurie | Halifax | June 19 – Sept. 14 |
| Mira River | Cape Breton | June 12 – Sept. 14 |
| Porters Lake | Halifax | May 15 – Oct. 12 |
| Rissers Beach | Lunenburg | May 15 – Oct. 12 |
| Salsman | Guysborough | June 19 – Sept. 14 |
| Smileys | Hants | June 19 – Sept. 28 |
| The Islands | Shelburne | May 15 – Sept. 7 |
| Thomas Raddall | Queens | May 15 – Oct. 12 |
| Valleyview | Annapolis | June 19 – Oct. 12 |
| Whycomomagh | Inverness | June 19 – Oct. 19 |

Day-use parks are open: May 15 – October 12.

The day-use areas of camping parks open and close on the same day as the campground except for: Battery, Blomidon, Boylston, Dollar Lake, Salsman, and Smileys which will be open May 15 – October 12.

Contact Us

Reservations

1-888-544-3434

www.novascotiaparks.ca

Seasons & Fees

www.novascotiaparks.ca

Parks Information Phone Line

(902) 424-5937

Provincial Wildlife Park

(902) 758-2040

<http://wildlifepark.gov.ns.ca>

Parks are for People Event List

(902) 424-4321

www.novascotiaparks.ca/misc/parks4people.asp

Campground Host Information

(902) 424-5832

www.novascotiaparks.ca/misc/campground_host_program.asp

Parks & Recreation Division General Information

(902) 662-3030

www.novascotiaparks.ca

PARKINFO@gov.ns.ca

We want to hear from you; how was your stay in Nova Scotia's Provincial Parks? Tell us what you liked and what you didn't like. And, if you'd like to receive a copy of the next issue of this newsletter contact us at PARKINFO@gov.ns.ca



NOVA SCOTIA
Natural Resources